

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: May 15, 2020

Lane County Approved for Phase I Beginning May 15

Lane County's application detailing its ability to meet the state's seven prerequisites for phased reopening was accepted and approved. This allows the County to move into Phase I on May 15.

During Phase I, the following will be allowed in Lane County:

- Gatherings up to 25 people while maintaining physical distance from those not in your household (no travel, stay close to home and avoid overnight trips)
- Limited sit-down service at restaurants and bars with 6-foot distancing
- Personal care businesses may reopen (salons, barber shops, massage) with physical distancing, appointments, personal protective equipment (PPE) and customer list
- Gyms and fitness centers may reopen with physical distancing and sanitation
- Shopping centers and malls may reopen with physical distancing

The Oregon Health Authority has created downloadable signage in multiple languages to post in businesses: "Clean hands save lives," "Going out? Stay apart," and "Do you have these symptoms?" please visit their website at: <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19> for the signs and other guidance for each business sector.

The Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce has also posted "[Back to Business, A Guide to Re-Opening](#)" prepared by the Eugene and Springfield Chambers. The guide provides useful information for local businesses and the public as Lane County moves into Phase 1.

Next Steps

After a minimum of 21 days, Lane County may be able to enter Phase II if it continues to meet all prerequisites. The state will not move into Phase III until there is a reliable treatment or vaccine. See more details about the state's three phases of reopening at: https://govsite-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/2pRIAJbhRBuSTm0Iqy6p_Reopening-Oregon-Details-on-Restarting-Public-Life-and-Business.pdf. It's also important to remember the Governor's plan may change and it could affect Lane County and Cottage Grove.

Important Actions to Protect Ourselves and Each Other

During the past eight weeks, Grovers and residents throughout Oregon have helped flatten the curve by following important guidelines. As the state reopens, it's important to remember the risks and to continue to do our best to protect ourselves and one another. If we all follow these actions, we will help save the lives of our colleagues, neighbors, friends and family members.

- Stay home if you are sick.

- If you become symptomatic (cough, fever, shortness of breath) while in public, please return home and self-isolate immediately. Contact your health care provider if you need medical attention.
- Stay home if you are at risk for severe complications: Individuals over the age of 60 or who have underlying medical conditions should stay home even if well to avoid exposure to COVID-19.
- Practice good hand hygiene: Frequently wash your hands for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol content).
- Cover coughs/sneezes with elbow or tissue: If you use a tissue, immediately discard tissue in garbage and your wash hands.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Continue physical distancing: Maintain at least six (6) feet of distance between you and people who you do not live with.
- Wear masks in public: The Governor strongly recommends the use of cloth, paper or disposable face coverings in public. As Oregon is reopening and restrictions are being lifted on businesses and public spaces, it may be difficult to ensure that you can stay six (6) feet away from others at all times.
- Stay close to home. Avoid overnight trips and minimize other non-essential travel, including recreational day trips to destinations outside the community where you live. Travel the minimum distance needed to obtain essential services; in rural areas, residents may have to travel greater distances for essential services, while in urban areas, residents may only need to travel a few miles for those services.

This morning the Governor issued [Finalized Phase 1 Guidance](#) which included the following:

Guidance on Face Coverings

Under new statewide guidance for face coverings, all businesses must provide face coverings and require employees to wear them. In public, all Oregonians must wear a face covering on public transit, and it is strongly recommended that Oregonians wear a face covering in settings like grocery stores where physical distancing is difficult to maintain.

City Hall Opening to Public

Cottage Grove City Hall will open to the public on Monday, May 18th from 8:00 to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Everyone is strongly encouraged to conduct business with City Hall by phone, email or other electronic means. Visitors that must come to City Hall will be reminded to follow social distancing requirements. The building will not be open for meetings other than official City meetings and with attendance limited to no more than 10. Virtual attendance is still strongly encouraged.

Parks and Sport Courts

Under the Phase 1 guidance park playgrounds, picnic shelters/structures, basketball courts and any day use areas prone to attracting crowds are closed. The skate park will remain closed since we do not have the ability to maintain physical distancing at that park. Groups or parties in the parks are to be limited to groups of 10 or fewer that arrived together. We are not taking any reservations for park use through at least the end of September. The parks are open but all users must follow physical distancing requirements. The restrooms in the parks will be open but will not be cleaned twice daily. Visitors to parks should bring their own hand sanitizer with them to the parks.

Local Businesses Adjust to Reopening Guidelines

How Residents Can Make the Transition Smooth – From Travel Lane County,

Travel Lane County, along with our area chambers of commerce, are excited that Lane County is moving into phase one reopening. Many businesses have gone to great lengths to continue serving customers during the last couple of months and area residents have been supportive of these businesses. Phase one reopening provides us an opportunity to support these and many more businesses that will begin operating in the weeks ahead.

Non-essential travel is not allowed in phase one, so all residents should stay local and support local until phase two. When phase two is approved additional information will be provided on how to appropriately visit our beautiful Eugene, Cascades & Coast region.

Supporting our local businesses goes beyond sales and services transactions. Businesses need these transactions and they need additional support as they adapt to the guidelines the state is requiring. So here are a few suggestions for supporting our businesses.

Patience - Businesses may choose not to reopen immediately and that's okay. Each business is unique and is addressing how best to operate their business in a safe and successful manner. Adjusting to customer spacing and service delivery will require all of us to be prepared to modify our expectations. Our businesses strive to provide great experiences and attaining the high standards these businesses are used to providing will take time to be realized.

Respect - Employees are being asked to serve us in new ways and they will need time to adjust. We can support them during this transition and realize they are being placed at higher risk to serve us. Thank them and be generous with tipping to show them they are appreciated.

Thoughtfulness - Acceptance and adherence to safety requirements will vary by business and we can help businesses be successful by being thoughtful and be wearing required face covering where necessary, staying home if we are sick and following all suggested hygiene protocols.

We look forward to successfully moving from phase one to phase two and beyond. While this requires Lane County to meet specific health guidelines, it also requires support of our local businesses.

Election Day

Tuesday, May 19th is Election day. Ballots must be returned by 8:00 pm. In order for ballots to be counted they should not be mailed but can be dropped off at the ballot return box in front of the Community Center at 700 E. Gibbs.

Yard of the Week

The 2020 Yard of the Week season kicked off today with a minimal contact prize awarded to 1598 Elm. This is a new yard that really looks great up on Sunrise Ridge. The Yard of the Week winners receive a credit for one month of their water portion of their City utility bill, a gift certificate from the Chamber of Commerce and a gift certificate from the Cottage Grove Sentinel for a year subscription. Please submit nominations to the Chamber of Commerce or City Manager office.

Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day

The week of May 10th – 15th is known nationally as Police Week and today is Peace Officers Memorial Day. This week was also momentous because for the first time in the history of our

department, the City was being protected by our two female officers: Sgt. Miles and Officer Jackson who were on night patrol.

Tree Branch Pickup

The final tree limb and branch pickup starts May 18th. The Utility crew members will be picking up branches and limb piles throughout City next week ending on Friday, May 22nd. Property owners are encouraged to place the branches and limbs in approved areas. For a complete list of approved locations please go to the Cottage Grove website at: www.cottagegrove.org follow the Annual Tree Branch Program link under the City Departments tab for the information. Please have all your branches and limbs out by the end of day Sunday, May 17th.

City property owners are welcome to bring branches and limbs to the drop off site on North 12th Street behind Dari Mart and the US Post Office. The drop off site is open 7 days a week and will remain open until May 26th. If you have any questions please call the Public Works & Development Office at (541)942-3349.

Local Foods, Local Places

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced assistance to help 16 communities across the country boost economic opportunities for their local farmers, while promoting clean air, safe water, open space, and healthy food through their 2020 Local Foods, Local Places program. Cottage Grove was selected to be a part of the 2020 program.

Local Foods, Local Places helps cities and towns across the country protect the environment and human health by engaging with local partners to reinvest in existing neighborhoods as they develop local food systems. In 2020, the program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and EPA.

Local Foods, Local Places supports locally led, community-driven efforts to protect air and water quality, preserve open space and farmland, boost economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses, improve access to healthy local food, and promote childhood wellness.

In selecting Local Foods, Local Places partner communities, special consideration is given to communities in the early stages of developing local food enterprises and creating economically vibrant communities.

Many of the communities selected for the Local Foods, Local Places program are small towns or rural communities.

By being selected for Local Foods, Local Places Cottage Grove will get access to a team of federal, state, and regional agricultural, environmental, public health, architectural and economic development experts to help develop an action plan, set goals, and identify local assets that can support the local food economy and contribute to downtown and neighborhood revitalization. See the attached

Quote of the Week

I did what I felt, and I felt what I did, at all costs.

Little Richard